DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 426 112 TM 029 346

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TITLE TITLE VI 1997-98. FEEDBACK, Publication No. 97.11.
INSTITUTION Austin Independent School District, TX. Office of Program Evaluation.
PUB DATE 1998-09-00
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Compensatory Education; *Educational Improvement; Educationally Disadvantaged; Elementary Secondary Education; *Expenditures; *Federal Aid; Federal Legislation; Itinerant Teachers; Library Materials; Private Schools; Public Schools; *Resource Allocation; Scholarships; Summer Programs; Volunteers; Workshops
IDENTIFIERS *Austin Independent School District TX; *Elementary Secondary Education Act Title VI; Improving Americas Schools Act 1994; Reading Recovery Projects

ABSTRACT

Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended in 1994, provides federal funds to states to contribute to the improvement of elementary (including preschool) and secondary educational programs in both public and private schools. Title VI funds supplement or increase local funds, but may not be used to supplant them. The 1997-98 allocation of Title VI funds to the Austin Independent School District (AISD) of $414,630 was based on public and private school enrollments and the numbers of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. This program summary presents the allocation, expenditure, number of students served and staff funded, and cost per student/staff for each Title VI program. These programs included: (1) expenses associated with a coordinator of volunteers; (2) library resources; (3) funding for a mathematics specialist for the school district; (4) equipment and supplies for private nonprofit schools; (5) a science workshop; (6) visiting teachers for extra student support; (7) Reading Recovery programs; (8) funding for intervention specialists; and (9) scholarships to a summer program. (Contains one table and two references.) (SLD)

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FEEDBACK

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Title VI 1997-98

Holly Williams

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Austin Independent School District

FEEDBACK

Title VI 1997-98

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INTRODUCTION

Title VI provides federal funds to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended by Public Law 103-382 in 1994. Title VI is intended to contribute to the improvement of elementary (including preschool) and secondary educational programs in both public and private nonprofit schools and institutions. Local education agencies are encouraged to maximize the effectiveness of Title VI funds by coordinating with other federal and state programs to provide an integrated, coherent delivery of services to increase student achievement. According to Public Law 103-382, Title VI, Section 6001 (b), the purpose of Title VI programs is to:

1. Support local education reform efforts which are consistent with and support statewide reform efforts under Goals 2000: Educate America Act;
2. Support state and local efforts to accomplish the National Education Goals;
3. Provide funding to enable state and local educational agencies to implement promising educational reform programs;
4. Provide a continuing source of innovation and educational improvement, including support for library services and instructional and media materials; and
5. Meet the special educational needs of at-risk and high-cost students.

A school district receiving Title VI funds must use those funds to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would be made available in the absence of Title VI funds. *Federal funds may not be used to supplant local funds.* School districts may use Title VI funds to expand existing programs and/or add new programs, including the addition of staff and the acquisition of materials and equipment that would not otherwise be available from state and local funding sources. In no case, however, may a school district supplant local funds with Title VI funds.

States earn Title VI funds based on their school-aged population. Local school districts' Title VI entitlement is based on the number of students enrolled in their public schools, the number of students enrolled in participating private nonprofit schools, and the number of public and participating private, nonprofit school students who have been identified as low-income, based on free or reduced-price lunch counts. AISD's 1997-98 allocation of $414,630 was based on AISD's October 1996 school enrollment of 76,101, AISD's private nonprofit school enrollment of 4,014, and 39,582 AISD students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (52%). In addition, $27,532 was rolled forward from 1996-97 for a total 1997-98 allocation of $442,162. A total of $377,968 was allocated to the targeted assistance areas Title VI funds can support. The remaining $69,728 in funding was allocated for management and evaluation of Title VI ($44,101), indirect costs associated with the grant ($3,346), and account adjustments to the Library Resources program ($22,281). The Program Summary presents the allocation, expenditure, number of students served and staff funded, and cost per student/staff for each Title VI program.

1997-98 TITLE VI PROGRAM SUMMARY

Title VI Component	Allocation From Title VI*	Actual Expenditure	Number of Staff Funded	Number Of Students Served	Cost Per Student Or Staff
Coordinator of Volunteers	$31,808	$31,643	1 part-time staff	NA	$31,643
AISD Library Resources	$121,250	$93,788	NA	NA	NA
Private Nonprofit Schools & Neglected and Delinquent Facilities	$31,250	$28,871	NA	5,510	$5.24
Visiting Teachers	$75,669	$80,900	1 full-time staff 1 part-time staff	561	$40,450
Huston-Tillotson Summer Bridge Program	$16,473	$0**	NA	3	$0
Science Workshop	$5,742	$5,742	NA	NA	NA
Mathematics Specialist	$52,541	$52,482	1 full-time staff	NA	$52,482
Intervention Specialists	$17,293	$16,469	NA	NA	$16,469
Reading Recovery	$25,942	$25,248	1 part-time Teacher Leader 1 part-time secretary	NA	$12,624
TOTAL	**$377,968**	**$335,143**	**4 part-time 2 full-time**	**6,074 Students**	----

* Figures reflect Title VI allocations only. Programs may receive additional funds from other sources. Therefore, actual total program cost per student or staff may be higher.

** AISD was credited for three summer scholarships during the 1996-97 school year; therefore, no 1997-98 Title VI funds were expended.

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DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

During the 1997-98 school year, Title VI allocated $31,808 and expended $31,643 for a half-time Coordinator of Volunteers to provide support for the recruitment, retention, and recognition of community volunteers. Duties of this position included developing and implementing the Volunteer Reporting System, facilitating community donations to school and community groups interested in volunteering for the district, serving as a liaison between volunteer campus contacts and the community to provide volunteer needs and general information, developing district-wide volunteer training, and working with university volunteers to maintain the College Bound program in Title I schools.

The Coordinator of Volunteers reported that the majority of her time is spent attending job-related meetings and coordinating with volunteer agencies. She believes that the Coordinator of Volunteers position facilitates the placement of volunteers by contacting schools and determining their volunteer needs and their willingness to accept volunteers. The Coordinator of Volunteers also stated that her most beneficial service to the district is building and maintaining relationships with individuals and groups in the community.

During the 1997-98 school year, the Coordinator of Volunteers reported that 2,247 volunteers donated 16,134 hours to AISD high schools, 2,019 volunteers donated 29,992 hours to AISD middle schools, and 7,636 volunteers donated 281,866 hours to AISD elementary schools.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Title VI allocated $121,250 and expended $93,788 for all AISD elementary and secondary campuses to purchase library resources. Title VI funds may be used for the purchase of supplementary library materials, assessments, reference materials, media materials, and instructional and educational materials for any subject area and for any grade level. However, materials purchased through Title VI must focus on a particular purpose, reflect high academic standards, and must be part of an overall education reform program. Purchased materials are labeled as Title VI acquisitions to indicate their funding source.

MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST

Title VI allocated $52,541 and expended $52,482 to provide the district with a mathematics specialist. The mathemetics specialist conducted 38 district-wide training workshops on curriculum-based mathematics and pedagogy for 5th, 6th, 7th, and high school teachers. The mathematics specialist also helped Area I teachers who needed additional help after completing a workshop. The mathematics specialist helped plan, co-teach, teach, and model workshop strategies for teachers from two high schools, three middle schools and 14 elementary schools.

The mathematics specialist also attended professional development activities which included 6th and 7th grade Connected Mathematics and 5th grade investigations training, and attended the National Counsel of Supervisors of Mathematics conference and the National Counsel of Teachers of Mathematics conference in Washington, DC.

PRIVATE NONPROFIT SCHOOLS

During the 1997-98 school year, Title VI allocated $31,250 for 18 private, nonprofit schools and six Neglected and Delinquent Facilities. A total of $28,871 was spent to serve 3,971 students in private, nonprofit schools and 1,539 students in Neglected and Delinquent Facilities. One private school did not use their funding. By law, Title VI funds are available through AISD to nonpublic, nonprofit schools and Neglected and Delinquent Facilities within AISD boundaries. Private nonprofit schools and Neglected and Delinquent Facilities are contacted in the spring to determine if they would like to participate during the upcoming school year. Applicants must meet a number of eligibility requirements relating to compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws and nonprofit status. Funds are then allocated to approved applicants on a per-pupil basis for purchase of items selected by schools or facilities. All purchases are made through AISD, and the District retains title to, and exercises administrative control of, all equipment and supplies. Equipment and supplies which are placed in a private school must be used for Title VI purposes only, and must be able to be removed easily should a school or facility become ineligible for Title VI funding.

Private nonprofit schools and Neglected and Delinquent Facilities are not required by AISD to report evaluation findings on the use of Title VI funds. However, administrators responding to a Title VI survey (N=23) reported using from one to six methods to evaluate the effectiveness of these funds, the most common of which was a teacher and/or student survey.

SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Title VI allocated and expended $5,742 for a workshop designed to meet the needs of AISD health teachers teaching the Making Healthy Choices (MHC) curriculum. Sixth, 7th, 8th, Biology I, and 10th-12th high school health teachers participated in an all day MHC workshop. During the workshop they were asked to fill out a survey asking how comfortable they felt teaching particular subjects which are a mandatory part of the MHC curriculum. Mandatory topics vary depending on the grade level of the students; however, topics may include puberty, reproductive systems, drugs and alcohol, HIV/AIDS, suicide, teenage pregnancy, and contraception choices. The purpose of the survey was to gain information from teachers to help determine which topics should be emphasized during future workshops.

Twenty-three teachers completed the survey. Results of the survey indicated that the majority (87%) of teachers were comfortable teaching the topics required in the MHC curriculum. When asked which topics were the most difficult to teach, 39% stated none of the topics were difficult to teach, 35% listed a variety of topics, 17% indicated the topic of sexual orientation was the most difficult, and 9% did not answer the question. Over half of the teachers (56%) indicated that they would like to find a better way to present the MHC material.

VISITING TEACHERS

During the 1997-98 school year, Title VI allocated $75,669 and expended $80,900 for two Visiting Teachers. One full-time and one part-time teacher provided support services for 561 AISD students at two high schools (Bowie, McCallum), two middle/junior high schools (Bailey, Kealing), and seven elementary schools (Blackshear, Campbell, Lee, Kiker, Kocurek, Maplewood, and Menchaca). As part of the Department of School Support Services for AISD, the mission of the Visiting Teacher program is to support campuses in achieving success for all students by connecting district and community resources and providing direct and indirect services to students, parents, and staff.

Visiting Teachers provided by AISD are required to have a Master's degree and certification in teaching, counseling, or social work. In addition, Visiting Teachers are required to have a minimum of three years' experience in classroom teaching or social work. Visiting Teachers are also required to have a thorough knowledge of AISD policies and academic requirements, knowledge of social services and programs available to meet a range of health, income, and social services needs, as well as knowledge of state, local, and federal laws affecting the lives of students and families. Because of changes in district policy, Visiting Teachers were not required to attend discipline hearings during the 1997-98 school year; however, Visiting Teachers still attended hearings relevant to their caseload.

Visiting Teachers provided a variety of services such as making home visits, providing social services, writing social histories for special education assessments, facilitating interagency council meetings to provide information about available programs, compiling crisis resource packets with two other Visiting Teachers which were given to all of the Visiting Teachers, and responding to the needs of schools during several crisis situations, including the death of two AISD students. One of the Visiting Teachers supervised two senior interns from Huston-Tillotson College and administered the TAAS at Blackshear Elementary School. In addition, Visiting Teachers work with numerous local agencies to provide assistance to AISD students and their families whenever needed.

Visiting Teachers surveyed reported that each AISD campus would benefit from having their own full-time Visiting Teacher, including providing Visiting Teachers to Year-Round schools during the summer. Two new schools will be opening next year and the need for Visiting Teacher services at existing schools continues to rise. Additional Visiting Teachers would allow for more extensive follow-ups with teachers, students, and their families.

READING RECOVERY

Title VI allocated $25,942 for the Reading Recovery program during the 1997-98 school year and expended $25,248. Title VI funds were used for a one-quarter time Reading Recovery teacher and for a one-quarter time Reading Recovery secretary. An evaluation of the Reading Recovery program was not conducted by OPE during the 1997-98 school year. For a full evalauation report of Reading Recovery, refer to A&E Publication Number 94.06 (May 1995).

INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS

Title VI allocated $15,565 and expended $16,469 to provide laptop computers for five Intervention Specialists (IS). An Intervention Specialist was assigned to provide various types of assistance to AISD schools in each of the five school operations areas. ISs worked in conjunction with counselors and Visiting Teachers at each school to facilitate services such as crisis intervention, counseling for students and staff in the event of student violence, and assisting in the development of campus plans for school safety and discipline management.

ISs contacted principals at the beginning of the school year to determine what services they would like assistance with on their campus. The amount and length of time the ISs provided assistance varied depending on the needs of each school. All of the Intervention Specialists have worked in education for many years and have held a wide range of positions, including teacher, counselor, and principal or assistant principal. All ISs had a Master's degree, usually in counseling. The ISs reported that they spent a great

deal of time traveling between campuses and that the laptops provided by Title VI allowed them the opportunity to work at various locations.

Intervention Specialists also participated in extensive training and professional development activities including: Positive Parenting Practices, Conflict Resolution/Mediation Training, Nonviolence Crisis Management, the statewide Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities conference, and the Improving America's Schools regional conference.

The majority of funding for the Intervention Specialists was provided by Title VI. For a complete description of the services provided through this program, please consult the Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Final Report (Publication No. 97.06).

HUSTON-TILLOTSON

Title VI allocated $16,473 to provide scholarships for AISD students to attend the Huston-Tillotson Summer Bridge Program. Both public and private nonprofit schools were notified by letter of the availability of these scholarships, and three private school students enrolled in courses. AISD was credited for three summer scholarships during the 1996-97 school year; therefore, no 1997-98 Title VI funds were expended.

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Publication Number 97.11
September 1998